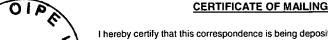
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Attorney Docket No.

A3213-US-NP

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on 5-23-00 Amen Messany Millon Date Karén Messina-McDonnell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of James J. Spence et al.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Application No.: 10/719,396

Examiner: Thomas A. Morrison

Filed: November 21, 2003

Confirmation No.: 2562

For: AN AIR DIFFUSING VACUUM TRANSPORT BELT

Mail Stop: Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) and information listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. One legible copy of each is attached to the PTO-1449 Form, except for U.S. Patents, or published or IFW (Image File Wrapper) available U.S. applications. It is respectfully requested that the references and information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of the above application (excluding an RCE), OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (including an RCE). No certification or fee is required.
 This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance, or other action that closes prosecution. Please debit Xerox Corporation Deposit Account 24-0025 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). (A copy of this paper is attached.)
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a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1); (OR)

Application No. 10/719,396

| | b. I hereby certify that <u>no</u> item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c), <u>more than three months</u> prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2) | | | | | |
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| 5. | Per 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3), a concise explanation of the relevance of each of any submitted item that is NOT in the English language is either enclosed herewith, or incorporated in the application specification. | | | | | |
| 6. | A copy of an English language version of an above-referenced counterpart foreign application search report is attached. | | | | | |
| 7. | Copies of some or all of the subject references were cited or submitted to the Office in related parent Application No. , filed , which is relied upon under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of those references are not attached (except for copies of cited pending applications). 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). | | | | | |

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of

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|------------------------|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Application Number | 10/719,396 | | | |
| Filing Date | 11/21/2003 | | | |
| First Named Inventor | James J. Spence | • | | |
| Art Unit | 3653 | | | |
| Examiner Name | Thomas A. Morrison | | | |
| Attorney Docket Number | A3213-US-NP | | | |

| | | | U.S. Pa | tent Documents | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (if known)} | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.